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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May Jobless Rates Increase Seasonally in Nearly All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Employment and Workforce Levels Up in All Areas

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in May rose in 16 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels increased in all major regions.

"The May jobless rate increases reflected the large expansion of workers entering the state's labor pool to take advantage of summer and seasonal employment opportunities," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Although many individuals found employment in May, some were continuing their job search through the end of the month."

From April to May, the unemployment rate advances in the 16 regions ranged from 0.1 to 1.5 percentage points, with a median hike of 0.9 of a percentage point. The largest over-the-month jobless rate increase occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Five other regions recorded a rate increase of a full percentage point. The jobless rate in the Northeast Lower Michigan region declined slightly in May by -0.2 of a percentage point.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

Since May 2014, unemployment rates fell in all 17 major regions. Reductions ranged from -1.0 to -2.0 percentage points with a median rate drop of -1.5 percentage points. The largest jobless rate decreases over that period were displayed in the Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA, with rates in both areas down by -2.0 percentage points.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

In May, the total employment gains in all regions were wide ranging from 0.1 to 6.8 percent with a median advance of 1.3 percent. By far the most pronounced additions were posted in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with increases of 6.8 and 6.0 percent respectively, as hiring geared up for the summer tourism season. Combined, these two regions recorded a total employment surge in May of 13,000.

From May 2014 to May 2015, total employment rose in all 17 Michigan regions. Employment increases since May 2014 ranged from 1.3 to 4.8 percent, with a significant median gain of 2.1 percent. Notable total employment advances over the year were registered in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.8%) and Muskegon (+3.2%) MSAs along with the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+2.8%) and Northeast Lower Michigan region (+2.7%).

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From April to May, workforce levels rose seasonally in all 17 regions. In May, area labor force expansion ranged from 1.2 to 6.5 percent with a substantial median gain of 2.2 percent. Over the month, the top employment advances were displayed in the two Northern Lower Michigan regions.

Over the year, labor force levels rose in 13 areas, declined in two regions, and were essentially unchanged in both the Bay City and Jackson MSAs. Workforce increases over this period ranged from 0.1 to 3.5 percent with a median gain of 1.0 percent. Minor over-the-year labor force reductions were reported in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (-0.5%) and the Upper Peninsula (-0.1%).

Widespread Seasonal Gain in May Payroll Jobs

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan jumped by 81,000 or 1.9 percent in May to 4,312,000. The large widespread gains in May payroll jobs were for the most part seasonal, and were led by a 31,000 increase in leisure and hospitality services. Other significant seasonal job additions were posted in trade, transportation and utilities (+16,000), construction (+15,000), and professional and business services (+12,000).

Manufacturing jobs rose over the month by 9,000, partially reflecting recalls from short-term layoffs in the auto industry. Government jobs (-9,000) recorded the only decline among major sectors in May. This reduction was seasonal, reflecting a cut in state government education jobs due to the end of the winter/spring semester at a number of the state's universities.

From April to May, payroll jobs increased in 13 of the 14 metropolitan areas in the state. Regional job gains ranged from 0.3 to 2.1 percent, with an average advance of 1.3 percent. Over the month, the largest increases were shared by seven regions, with job hikes of 1.8 percent or above. The smallest regional job gains in May were recorded in the Ann Arbor (+0.3%) and Lansing-East Lansing (+0.5%) MSAs. Payroll jobs fell slightly in May by -0.3 percent in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA.

From May 2014 to May 2015, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 102,000 or 2.4 percent. Job gains over this period were substantial in nearly all of the state's major sectors, however advances in manufacturing, professional and business services, and construction accounted for 60 percent of the state's over-the-year job growth.

Since May 2014, payroll jobs rose in 13 metropolitan regions of the state with gains ranging from 0.4 to 4.1 percent, with a median increase of 1.6 percent. The largest payroll job gains over this period were displayed in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+4.1%), Detroit-Warren-Livonia (+2.7%), and Muskegon (+2.4%) MSAs. Payroll jobs declined slightly by -0.3 percent in the Bay City MSA over the year.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year

Sixty-nine of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate increases in May with a median advance of 0.8 of a percentage point. Jobless rates were down slightly in ten counties over the month, while the rates in four were unchanged. In May, 79 Michigan counties displayed unemployment rates below 10.0 percent.

From May 2014 to May 2015, jobless rates dropped in 82 of the state's counties. The median decline over this period was -1.6 percentage points. Schoolcraft County posted an over-the-year rate increase due to a layoff event that began in April.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted May workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for May.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,300	188,500	190,800	1.2%	0.8%
Total Employment	179,300	182,500	182,700	0.1%	1.9%
Unemployment	10,000	6,000	8,000	33.3%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	5.3	3.2	4.2		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	65,100	64,500	66,000	2.3%	1.4%
Total Employment	60,900	61,600	62,400	1.3%	2.5%
Unemployment	4,200	2,900	3,600	24.1%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	6.5	4.5	5.4		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	53,800	52,800	53,800	1.9%	0.0%
Total Employment	49,800	50,000	50,500	1.0%	1.4%
Unemployment	4,000	2,800	3,300	17.9%	-17.5%
Rate (percent)	7.4	5.4	6.1		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,014	1,952	2,003	2.6%	-0.5%
Total Employment	1,841	1,853	1,871	1.0%	1.6%
Unemployment	172	99	132	33.3%	-23.3%
Rate (percent)	8.6	5.1	6.6		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	186,600	184,400	187,700	1.8%	0.6%
Total Employment	171,600	174,400	175,800	0.8%	2.4%
Unemployment	15,000	9,900	12,000	21.2%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	8.0	5.4	6.4		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	547,500	551,300	566,800	2.8%	3.5%
Total Employment	518,600	532,900	543,300	2.0%	4.8%
Unemployment	28,800	18,400	23,600	28.3%	-18.1%
Rate (percent)	5.3	3.3	4.2		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,000	72,400	74,000	2.2%	0.0%
Total Employment	68,900	68,900	69,800	1.3%	1.3%
Unemployment	5,100	3,400	4,200	23.5%	-17.6%
Rate (percent)	6.9	4.8	5.7		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	163,900	163,800	165,800	1.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	153,400	157,000	157,200	0.1%	2.5%
Unemployment	10,400	6,900	8,600	24.6%	-17.3%
Rate (percent)	6.4	4.2	5.2		

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LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	245,300	242,600	246,000	1.4%	0.3%
Total Employment	229,600	233,100	234,100	0.4%	2.0%
Unemployment	15,700	9,500	11,900	25.3%	-24.2%
Rate (percent)	6.4	3.9	4.8		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	42,100	41,600	42,500	2.2%	1.0%
Total Employment	39,500	39,800	40,300	1.3%	2.0%
Unemployment	2,600	1,800	2,200	22.2%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	6.2	4.4	5.2		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,700	75,900	77,500	2.1%	1.0%
Total Employment	71,800	72,800	73,700	1.2%	2.6%
Unemployment	4,900	3,100	3,800	22.6%	-22.4%
Rate (percent)	6.4	4.1	4.9		

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	<u>May-14</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>May-15</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,500	77,100	78,800	2.2%	1.7%
Total Employment	71,600	73,200	73,900	1.0%	3.2%
Unemployment	5,900	3,900	4,800	23.1%	-18.6%
Rate (percent)	7.6	5.1	6.1		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,900	73,100	75,000	2.6%	0.1%
Total Employment	69,600	69,700	70,800	1.6%	1.7%
Unemployment	5,200	3,400	4,200	23.5%	-19.2%
Rate (percent)	7.0	4.6	5.6		

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SAGINAW MSA					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,500	88,300	89,800	1.7%	0.3%
Total Employment	82,600	83,800	84,300	0.6%	2.1%
Unemployment	6,900	4,600	5,500	19.6%	-20.3%
Rate (percent)	7.7	5.2	6.1		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,800	140,800	142,700	1.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	130,600	131,400	132,700	1.0%	1.6%
Unemployment	12,200	9,400	10,000	6.4%	-18.0%
Rate (percent)	8.5	6.7	7.0		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	84,400	79,700	84,900	6.5%	0.6%
Total Employment	76,500	73,600	78,600	6.8%	2.7%
Unemployment	8,000	6,100	6,300	3.3%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	9.4	7.6	7.4		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	149,600	142,600	151,200	6.0%	1.1%
Total Employment	138,000	133,900	141,900	6.0%	2.8%
Unemployment	11,600	8,600	9,300	8.1%	-19.8%
Rate (percent)	7.7	6.1	6.2		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,771	4,677	4,797	2.6%	0.5%
Total Employment	4,412	4,453	4,515	1.4%	2.3%
Unemployment	359	224	282	25.9%	-21.4%
Rate (percent)	7.5	4.8	5.9		

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(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MAY 2015**

1	Ottawa County	4.0	43	Genesee County	6.4
2	Kent County	4.1	44	Otsego County	6.5
3	Clinton County	4.2	45	Van Buren County	6.5
4	Washtenaw County	4.2	46	Missaukee County	6.6
5	Barry County	4.4	47	Sanilac County	6.6
6	Allegan County	4.4	48	Manistee County	6.7
7	Eaton County	4.7	49	Delta County	6.7
8	St. Joseph County	4.7	50	Benzie County	6.8
9	Grand Traverse County	4.8	51	Osceola County	6.8
10	Kalamazoo County	4.8	52	Tuscola County	6.9
11	Ionia County	4.8	53	Mecosta County	6.9
12	Mackinac County	4.9	54	Emmet County	7.1
13	Monroe County	4.9	55	Houghton County	7.2
14	Ingham County	5.1	56	Iron County	7.2
15	Cass County	5.2	57	Iosco County	7.3
16	Midland County	5.2	58	Luce County	7.3
17	Leelanau County	5.3	59	St. Clair County	7.3
18	Livingston County	5.3	60	Wexford County	7.3
19	Menominee County	5.3	61	Oceana County	7.4
20	Lenawee County	5.3	62	Antrim County	7.5
21	Branch County	5.3	63	Lapeer County	7.5
22	Isabella County	5.3	64	Gladwin County	7.6
23	Oakland County	5.4	65	Kalkaska County	7.6
24	Calhoun County	5.4	66	Crawford County	7.7
25	Huron County	5.5	67	Wayne County	7.7
26	Cheboygan County	5.6	68	Ogemaw County	7.8
27	Berrien County	5.6	69	Alcona County	7.9
28	Dickinson County	5.7	70	Clare County	7.9
29	Jackson County	5.7	71	Gogebic County	7.9
30	Hillsdale County	5.8	72	Chippewa County	8.2
31	Mason County	5.8	73	Arenac County	8.8
32	Shiawassee County	5.8	74	Alger County	9.1
33	Montcalm County	5.9	75	Lake County	9.1
34	Newaygo County	5.9	76	Oscoda County	9.1
35	Bay County	6.1	77	Roscommon County	9.2
36	Muskegon County	6.1	78	Montmorency County	9.6
37	Saginaw County	6.1	79	Presque Isle County	9.6
38	Charlevoix County	6.3	80	Baraga County	10.0
39	Alpena County	6.3	81	Keweenaw County	10.3
40	Marquette County	6.3	82	Ontonagon County	10.4
41	Macomb County	6.4	83	Schoolcraft County	11.8
42	Gratiot County	6.4			

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